

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EAE-00 SNM-02 AID-05 DEAE-00 JUSE-00

TRSE-00 SS-15 HEW-04 DODE-00 L-03 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-13 NSAE-00 NSC-05

OES-06 OMB-01 /071 W

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O 031249Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WAHDC IMMEDIATE 5491

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STATE FOR S/NM, EA/RA,EA/TB

CUSTOMS

AID FOR SER/INC, ASIA EAA

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: SNAR

SUBJ: NARCOTICS CONTROL PROGRAM

REF: STATE 101661

1. WE BELEIVE IT WOULD BE A SERIOUS MISTAKE IN TERMS OF MEETING OUR NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT OBJECTIVES TO DELAY FURTHER ACTION ON THE CUSTOMS IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM PENDING AN THE REVIEW. AFTER TWO COMPREHENSIVE EVALUATIONS(CCINC AND IGA) AND NUMEROUS DISCUSSIONS BY VISITORS WITH THAI CUSTOMS OFFICIALS, WE FEEL THAT ONLY DAMAGE TO THE PROGRAM AND TO RELATIONS WITH THE THAI CAN RESULT FROM FUTHER DELAY UNTIL ANOTHER EVALUATION IS COMPLETED. WE URGE CCINC APPROVAL TO PROCEED IMMEDIATELY WITH PROCUREMENT.

2. PROCUREMENT OF THE CUSTOMS PATROL BOATS HAS ALREADY BEEN

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DELAYED MORE THAN A YEAR. LAST YEAR, AFTER THE DEPARTMENT OF

CUSTOMS (DOC) REACHED THE PROJECT AGREEMENT STAGE, PROCUREMENT WAS POSTPONED UNTIL DOC HAD DEMONSTRATED IMPROVEMENT IN MARINE MAINTENANCE. THE DOC HAS CLEARLY DEMONSTRATED A VASTLY IMPROVED MARINE MAINTENANCE CAPABILITY, EXCEEDING THE EXPECTATIONS OF THREE EXPERT U.S. MARINE ADVISORS. THEY NOW HAVE EVERY RIGHT TO EXPECT THAT THE USG PROCEED WITH FINANCING THE BOATS. OUR CONSIDERED OPINION IS THAT FURTHER DELAY WILL SERIOUSLY AFFECT OUR ANTI-NARCOTICS EFFORTS WITH THE DOC JUST AS THEY HAVE EXHIBITED REAL INTEREST AND HAVE BEGUN TO TAKE REAL ANTI-NARCOTICS MEASURES.

3. WE READ REFTEL TO MEAN THAT ALL PROCUREMENT WOULD BE DEFERRED UNTIL THE FULL EVALUATION IS COMPLETED. THIS BASICALLY MEANS THAT FUNDS WOULD NOT BE OBLIGATED THIS FISCAL YEAR. IN ADDITION TO KILLING FY 76 BOAT PROCUREMENT, THIS WOULD RESULT IN DELAY OR CANCELLATION OF TNPD NARCOTICS VIDEO TRAINING EXPANSION, AND THE CUSTMS VIDEO TRAINING ACTIVITY. SINCE THE SAM PHRAN STUDIO IS NEARLY COMPLETED, IT WOULD BE VERY TIMELY TO MOVE NOW TO EXPANDING THE TNPD TRAINING PROJECT TO ADDITIONAL SCHOOLS AND TO STARTING THE CUSTOMS TRAINING ACTIVITY WITH TIES TO SAM PHRAN.

4. MISSION EXPERIENCE WITH JOINT US-RTG EVALUATIONS IN THE PAST HAS BEEN VERY POSITIVE. HOWEVER, THEY ARE TIME-CONSUMING AND SOMETIMES DO NOT PRODUCE IMMEDIATE RESULTS. THE POSITIVE IMPACTS COME IN THE FOLLOWING MONTHS AS CORRECTIVE ACTIONS ARE TAKEN. FOR THESE REASONS, WE MOST SINCERELY HOPE IT WILL NOT BE NECESSARY TO DELAY PROCUREMENT OF COMMODITIES FOR WHICH FY76 FUNDS HAVE ALREADY BEEN ALLOTTED, FIRST UNTIL THE EVALUATION IS COMPLETED, AND THEN WITH EXPECTATIONS OF FURTHER DELAYS BEING IMPOSED FOR "DEMONSTRATED IMPROVEMENTS."

5. IN LIGHT OF THESE FACTORS, WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT WE (A) GO AHEAD WITH DEVELOPING THE AGENDA FOR THE BROADER JOINT USG-RTG EVALUATION OF THE NARCOTICS PROGRAM, BUT TO PROCEED NOW WITH DISCRETE ELEMENTS OF THAT EVALUATION (BROADER EVALUATION PROPOSAL COVERED IN SEPTEL); AND (B) PROCEED WITH THE PROJECT AGREEMENTS AND PIO/C'S FOR THE CUSTOMS PATROL BOATS (NEGOTIATIONS WILL INCLUDE OPERATIONS PLAN) AND THE VIDEO EQUIPMENT FOR TNPD AND CUSTOMS. WE URGE THAT CCINC QUICKLY

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APPROVE BOTH THESE PROPOSALS.  
WHITEHOUSE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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